

2 July 1986
MBK-6009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- June 1986

I. GENERAL

A. In an attempt to further enhance the security of the Bureau, arrangements have been made to station a uniformed guard just outside the elevators on the Penthouse floor of the Kian Guan Building to control access to the area and to screen visitors. The guard is a member of the same firm that provides security services to the Embassy and was arranged for in consultations with Embassy security personnel. The new guard service commenced on 2 June. Visitors who do not have an embassy badge must sign in and state whom they wish to see before being permitted to proceed further. Thus far the new system is working quite well.

B. Phuket, in southern Thailand, is generally thought of as a quiet, very picturesque resort where not much goes on. However, on the 23d Phuket saw the largest riot Thailand has experienced in many years. A campaign had been building up for many weeks to have the government prevent an almost completed tantalum plant from beginning operations. When the Thai industry minister arrived in Phuket on the 23d to meet with opponents of the plant, he was met by 50,000 angry demonstrators who it seemed at times were coming close to doing him bodily harm. In fact, the crowd broke windows and set fire to a first class hotel in which they thought the minister had taken refuge. The mob then broke into the tantalum plant, burning and destroying it beyond repair. The prime minister declared a state of emergency in Phuket in order to bring things under control. The ironic thing is that the industry minister had gone to Phuket reportedly to tell the townspeople that their demands were being met and that the plant would not be permitted to open until all the various objections to it had been adequately dealt with.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. When the Phuket riot began the Bureau's Thai Unit went into high gear to cover the event. A number of radio and television items were quickly processed, although it meant holding a monitor past his end of shift to complete the coverage. The editorial staff was also busy alerting top Embassy officers to new developments as they occurred and fielding queries from them. The Bureau continued to cover the aftermath which saw the Army take over law and order duties, the prime minister dismiss the provincial governor, and authorities transfer the news director of a Bangkok television station for showing an interview that was felt to reflect too unfavorably on the authorities. At the expanded country team meeting following the riot, the DCM praised the timely and professional way the Bureau covered the event.

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2. While [] is on R&R leave, the Bureau is conducting an in-depth study of many of the press agency circuits he has found in an attempt to determine which are the best prospects for coverage and to come up with the most productive operating schedule. Although the new microwave system has not yet arrived, the current microwave is being used to feed up to 10 teletype signals simultaneously. This permits comparison of most of the 14 Indian press agency circuits at one time. By a process of elimination the best two circuits -- one PRESS TRUST OF INDIA and one UNITED NEWS OF INDIA -- have been identified. The Sri Lanka press agency LANKA PUWATH will be assessed in July as will the various Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, Indonesian, OANA, and the assortment of other press agency circuits which are waiting their turn.

B. Lateral Services

1. The head of the Embassy's CBW unit called to thank the editors for a particular press item the Bureau had processed for him on the yellow rain issue. He indicated the item had been very useful and said there was continuing interest in the subject.

2. The VOA correspondent stationed in Bangkok contacted the Bureau during the month to express an interest in obtaining the (Southeast Asia DAILY REPORT) and the JPRS serial publication on the same area. Arrangements were made through LRB for a subscription.

C. Technical

The following accountable property was received during the month:

2 ea IBM PC-XT 5160 computers, serial numbers 63378015160 and 62841965160
 2 ea IBM monitors, serial numbers 3727227 and 6056872
 1 ea Epson FX-286 printer, serial number 06013409
 1 ea NLQ SC1200 printer, serial number 3502770
 1 ea DSI NC2400 MX paper tape punch, serial number 113248
 1 pr Smarteam 1200B modems, serial numbers B000013 and B001561

III. ADMINISTRATION

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Personnel

1. The following were promoted during the month: Burmese monitor [] and South Asian monitor [] to senior monitor FBN-10, Associate Editor [] to FBN-10, and cruising monitor [] to senior cruising monitor FBN-9.

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2. On 23 May, Senior Associate Editor [] received a well-earned special achievement award with cash emolument.

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3. On 21 June, [] and family arrived PCS from Headquarters.

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4. On the 29th, Senior Editor [] departed PCS for reassignment in Headquarters.

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5. On 23 June, Communications Unit Chief [] moved from the teletype unit to become a satellite cruiser with [] taking over as Chief of the Commo Unit. [] will continue for a while to work on the recently received BACH system so as to take advantage of his computer expertise. On the same day, [] entered on duty as a teletypist.

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IV. VISITS

Okinawa Bureau staff technician [] visited the Bureau and Bang Ping on 4 June during his R&R in Thailand to view ROSET. On the 6th, ESI contractor Joe Thiele departed after completing ROSET work. He had been in Bangkok since 9 May. On the 10th a group of 20 people from the Thai NIA visited Bang Ping for a tour and demonstration of ROSET. Hong Kong editor [] visited the Bureau on 18 June during private travel in Thailand. On the 19th, [] departed for the U.S. on R&R travel. Mr. Stacy Sebulski, a State Department biographic specialist currently on TDY at the Embassy, visited the Bureau on the 20th and discussed personality files with Cambodian and Vietnamese monitors. On the 24th, [] who is a Washington-based economic analyst on Thailand on TDY at the Embassy, visited the bureau for a discussion of reporting requirements with editors, Bureau management, and the Thai monitors.

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Chief, Bangkok Bureau

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Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUNE 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	610,290
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	311,970
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,370

	<u>BROAD-- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-- CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	20,510 min.	20,420 min.	257.00 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

INDONESIA

Jakarta ANTARA in English	4,270
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MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	10,290
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PHILIPPINES

Manila PNA in English	25,900
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	16,010	
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English		1,060

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Overseas Service in English	340	
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	4,310	
Dhaka BSS in English		650
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English		600

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	2,780	
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English		140

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	29,320	
Phnom Penh SPK in English		14,510
Phnom Penh SPK in French		8,760

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Burmese	310	
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	1,160	

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	4,890	
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	15,230	
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	13,770	
(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	14,570	
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	4,070	

HONG KONG

Hong Kong AFP in English		58,770
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INDIA

Delhi General Overseas Service in English	4,530	
Delhi Domestic Service in English	43,950	
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		1,090
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English		1,260
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English		3,040
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English		1,960

<u>BROAD-</u> <u>CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS</u> <u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u> <u>CATION</u>
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INDONESIA

Jakarta International Service in English	240	
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	4,310	
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English		200
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English		280
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian		120
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian		730
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian		1,110
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian		3,310

LAOS

Vientiane Domestic Service in Laos	23,010	
Vientiane KPL in English		8,140

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	4,630	
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	1,410	
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	600	
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay		320

NEPAL

Katmandu External Service in English	160	
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English		490

PAKISTAN

Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	1,710	
Karachi Domestic Service in English	8,920	
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	11,460	

SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,510	
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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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SINGAPORE (continued)

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English		480
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SRI LANKA

Colombo International Service in English	14,410	
Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,320	
Colombo SUN in English		540

THAILAND

Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	3,710	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	2,610	
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,110	
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	16,490	
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	1,860	
Bangkok Television Service in Thai	3,610	
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English		31,410
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English		11,460
Bangkok THE NATION in English		42,270
Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN Ribao in Chinese		1,080
Bangkok XING XIAN Ribao in Chinese		130
Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese		200
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai		2,290
Bangkok NAED NA in Thai		4,220
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai		7,320
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai		1,080
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai		1,880

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	1,540	
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<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in
English

470

VIETNAM

Hanoi International Service in
English

10,720

Hanoi Domestic Service in
Vietnamese

51,040

Hanoi VNA in
English

2,950

Hanoi NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese

20,280

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese

12,610